

**Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TPEAC) Meeting
December 12, 2001
Best Western Lakeway Inn, Bellingham**

Committee Members Attending:

Voting

Sen. Margarita Prentice, Senate Democratic Caucus
Sen. Dan Swecker, Senate Republican Caucus
Rep. Doug Ericksen, House Republican Caucus
Rep. Sandra Romero, House Democratic Caucus
Jerry Alb, WSDOT
Gordon White, Washington Dept. of Ecology
Greg Hueckel, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Greg Kipp, Washington State Association of Counties

Non-Voting

Ann Aagaard, Statewide Environmental Groups
Dan Dixon, Consulting Engineers Council of Washington
Terry Tilton, Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council
Chantal Stevens, Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission
Willy O'Neil, Associated General Contractors of Washington
Grant Nelson, Association of Washington Business

Invited

Judith Lee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Bob Turner, National Marine Fisheries Service
Dan Mathis, Federal Highway Administration
Sheila North, Federal Transit Administration, Region X
Doug Peters, WA Department of Natural Resources

Observer:

Christine Golightly, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Committee Members Absent:

Voting

Ashley Probart, Association of Washington Cities

Non-Voting

Donald Sampson, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
Billy Frank Jr., Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Invited

Lynn Childers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael Lamprecht, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Introductions and Agreement on Last TPEAC Meeting Highlights

Senator Swecker began the meeting with opening comments and introductions. The highlights of the November 14 TPEAC meeting were accepted.

Subcommittee Presentations

The five TPEAC subcommittees each made presentations to TPEAC summarizing their work-to-date.

Pilot Projects

The subcommittee chair, Shari Schafflein of WSDOT, provided an overview of the subcommittee's December meeting, where the subcommittee discussed participation in the pilot projects and examined a draft meeting plan for the startup phase of the pilot projects. The subcommittee has scheduled a field trip to review the Hood Canal Bridge pilot project and its mitigation sites. The One-Stop Permitting Subcommittee is also invited to attend this field trip. The subcommittee's next meeting will be held on January 7.

Training, Compliance, and Reporting

Subcommittee co-chair Willy O'Neil of the Associated General Contractors of Washington presented an overview of the subcommittee's status and achievements. The subcommittee has agreed to the application of the SONDEO method to complete a baseline assessment of compliance issues. The SONDEO process will identify problems and potential solutions, and help the subcommittee understand relationships in existing training, compliance, and reporting systems. The subcommittee's next meeting will be held on January 16.

Watershed-Based Approach to Environmental Mitigation

Subcommittee co-chair Peter Birch of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented an overview of their actions to date. At their last meeting, the subcommittee heard a technical presentation on the Growth Management Act, adopted a vision statement, adopted a statement of support for the Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory & Assessment Program (SSHIAP) as Best Available Information, and adopted a statement of support for the SR-24 pilot project as a case study. Their next two meetings will be held on December 17 and January 8.

The Watershed Mitigation subcommittee approved the following recommendation to TPEAC: "SSHIAP is a logical repository for best available information for salmonids that should be funded now and that it is a valuable tool for achieving the vision of the watershed mitigation subcommittee." A resolution was presented to the TPEAC for supporting continued funding of SSHIAP. The resolution passed with the support of all of the voting members present. It was agreed that the subcommittee would develop a business plan for to support the request for continued funding of SSHIAP.

One-Stop Permitting

Subcommittee co-chair Greg Kipp from King County summarized the results of their recent meetings. The subcommittee has been discussing the results of WSDOT's internal

survey of permitting issues, and has identified several opportunities to improve the permitting process. The subcommittee has asked other agencies represented on the subcommittee to conduct similar surveys. The results of these surveys will be considered during the development of a one-stop process. The subcommittee has further developed its scope of work by defining tasks to create the one-stop permitting proposal. The next meetings of the subcommittee will be held on December 17 and January 4.

Programmatic Process

Subcommittee co-chair Gregor Myhr presented an overview of their subcommittee status. The subcommittee has identified a two-fold conceptual programmatic process, including an individual agency approach and a multi-agency, activity-based approach. The individual agency approach follows WSDOT's current approach in programmatic permit development. Three potential approaches to developing a multi-agency programmatic process have been identified. They include a Dept. of Ecology programmatic permit following Section 402 of the Clean Water Act procedures, a regional Corps of Engineers programmatic permit following Section 404 of the Clean Water Act procedures, and a programmatic approval based on pilot activities. Pros and cons to each of these approaches have been identified. The subcommittee will hold its next meetings on December 20 and January 3.

RFEG Presentation

Terry Wright made a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG's) in salmon recovery efforts. There are 14 RFEG's in Washington dedicated to community-based salmon recovery and stewardship projects. The RFEG's will be preparing a proposal to demonstrate how they can be involved in the TPEAC process.

Hogan Decision Viewpoint

Will Stelle of Preston, Gates, and Ellis presented an overview of the implications of the recent Oregon district court decision voiding the listing of Oregon coastal coho salmon by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Endangered Species Act. He discussed the implications of this decision on transportation planning and permit streamlining.

New Subcommittee on Planning

Shari Schaftlein of WSDOT, Judith Lee of E.P.A. and Sharon Love of Federal Highway Administration presented a proposal to create a 6th TPEAC subcommittee on planning. The Planning subcommittee would be created to review the transportation planning process and make recommendations on environmental information and processes that promotes early identification of issues in the planning phase in preparation for NEPA/SEPA and permitting decisions. The intended outcome is to ensure that the principles of NEPA are considered early in the transportation planning process in a non-regulatory way to expedite future regulatory decisions. It is the intent of the subcommittee to frame the issues related to transportation planning and to develop a plan to address those issues. Implementation of the plan will likely need to extend beyond the sunset date for TPEAC. After discussion on the scope of the subcommittee, a resolution

to establish a 6th TPEAC subcommittee on Planning was approved by all of the voting members present.

Plus/Delta, Future Meeting Schedule

The committee discussed positive aspects of the meeting and items that should be changed. The next TPEAC meeting will be held on January 9, 2002 from 9am – 3pm at the Labor & Industry Building in Olympia.

Senator Swecker adjourned the meeting.